

La Niña Weather Worsens Food Security in the Horn of Africa

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The La Nina weather forecast predicted late last year has come to pass with drought hitting the Horn of Africa. As forecast, rainfall performance has been poor especially in the eastern sector of the region. Widespread drought conditions are emerging in pastoral and marginal agricultural livelihood zones in the eastern sector especially in Somalia, Northern Kenya and parts of eastern and southern Ethiopia.

Hard hit are the pastoralist areas of southern Somalia and Ethiopia and the northern and South-Eastern lowlands of Kenya. Serious water and pasture shortages are leading to abnormal migration and pastoralists clustering around permanent water points. The price of livestock has dropped considerably and terms of trade between livestock and grain have worsened with prices of staples increasing.

The food security situation is deteriorating sharply in these areas and in some areas water scarcity is developing into an emergency.

USAID/EA in conjunction with the World Food Program (WFP) is carrying out assessments in some of the hardest hit areas. These assessment reports will form a basis for contributions to the WFP pipeline to mitigate the effects of the drought.

To read a full drought report click on this link to USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). <http://www.fews.net/Pages/default.aspx>